

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5269

AN ACT CONCERNING REMOTE MEETINGS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 4575)

House Calendar No.: 207

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Freedom of Information Com.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Various State Agencies	Various - Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund; Various=Various

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Various Municipalities	Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Explanation

This bill allows public agencies to continue holding remote and hybrid meetings after April 30, 2022. Depending on the caseload increase related to the ongoing requirements of this bill, the Freedom of Information Commission may need to hire one Staff Attorney 2 position, with a potential cost of \$99,513 and fringe benefit cost of \$40,333 to the Office of the State Comptroller.

Municipalities and state agencies that continue to offer electronic

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.53% of payroll in FY 23.

meetings after April 30, 2022, will continue to incur any ongoing costs associated with such meetings. These costs, which are expected to be minimal, include annual software licensing renewal, or replacement of electronic equipment.

The bill also allows regional public-school district meetings to be available electronically to the public. To the extent additional electronic equipment must be purchased and staff must be hired, there is a potential cost to districts.

House "A" alters the original bill by allowing regional public-school district meetings to be available electronically to the public which results in a potential cost to the extent additional electronic equipment must be purchased and staff must be hired.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.